

Agency Overview

The Idaho State Legislature created the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in 1899. In 1938, by voter initiative, the Fish and Game Commission was created to set policy for the Department. Commissioners are appointed by the Governor from the 7 administrative regions of the Department: Panhandle, Clearwater, Southwest, Magic Valley, Southeast, Upper Snake, and Salmon.

The Director, Steven M. Huffaker, is appointed by the Commission and serves as Secretary to the Commission and leader of the Department. The Department's 525 classified employees are divided into seven core functions: administration, communications, enforcement, engineering, fisheries, natural resources policy, and wildlife. Each function is divided into operations and program staff. Operations staff, led by Regional Supervisors, implements Department programs in 7 regional offices. Boise program staff, led by Bureau Chiefs, direct and integrate statewide operations as well as hatchery, research, intergovernmental, and interagency programs. The Department's strategic plan, The Compass, was adopted in 2005 and describes the goals, desired outcomes, and objectives of the Department.

The Department's 2006 budget of \$75 million is funded by license and tag sales, federal and private grants, and contracts. The budget does not include any annual Idaho general tax revenue appropriation. Hunters, anglers, and wildlife viewers in Idaho generate \$1.6 billion in economic output that provides nearly 20,000 jobs and over \$63 million in sales tax revenue to Idaho (in 2001 dollars).

Key challenges to achievement of the Department's mission are population growth and development, changes in how people use the land, and how they value fish and wildlife.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

The Department's mission and charter are outlined in Idaho Code, Section 36-103. Briefly, it states that all wildlife in Idaho is to be preserved, protected, perpetuated and managed for the citizens of the state and to provide for continued supplies for hunting, fishing and trapping.

To fulfill this mission, the Department has four goals:

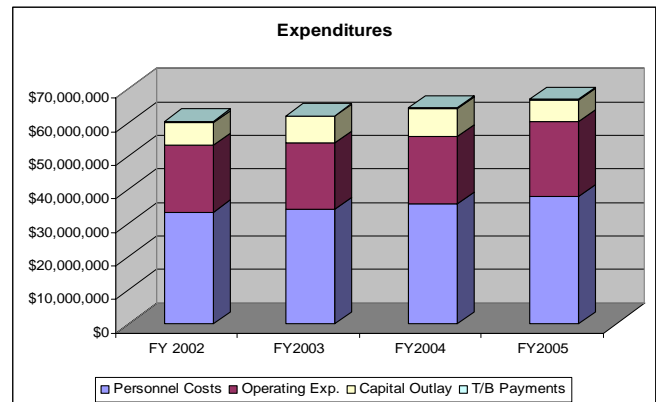
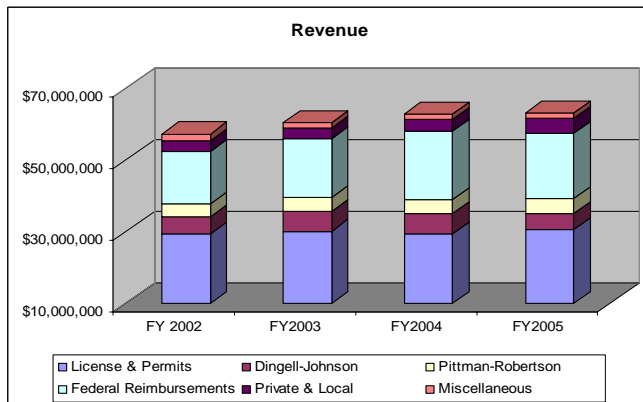
- Sustain Idaho's fish and wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend.
- Meet the demand for fish and wildlife recreation.
- Improve public understanding of and involvement in fish and wildlife management.
- Enhance the capability of the Department to manage fish and wildlife and serve the public.

The Department achieves its goals through its core functions:

- **Administration** - Provide fiscal services, information technology, and internal controls.
- **Communications** – Inform, educate, and involve people in the management of Idaho's fish and wildlife.
- **Enforcement** – Enforce the law and provide public information to increase compliance with regulations.
- **Engineering** – Construct and maintain facilities in a cost-effective, efficient, and safe manner.
- **Fisheries** – Inventory, monitor, and manage Idaho's fish resources.
- **Natural Resources Policy** – Promote land and water use sustaining Idaho's fish and wildlife resources.
- **Wildlife** – Inventory, monitor, and manage Idaho's wildlife resources.

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
License & Permits	\$29,500,500	\$30,139,700	\$29,337,500	\$30,553,100
Dingell-Johnson	\$4,570,800	\$5,484,800	\$5,838,100	\$4,585,700
Pittman-Robertson	\$3,828,000	\$3,822,700	\$3,695,800	\$4,015,000
Federal Reimbursements	\$14,499,800	\$16,480,600	\$19,205,300	\$18,452,600
Private & Local	\$3,105,100	\$2,987,300	\$3,285,400	\$3,944,500
Miscellaneous	\$1,816,100	\$1,595,200	\$1,568,600	\$1,583,200
Direct Receipts	\$57,320,200	\$60,510,500	\$62,930,800	\$63,134,000
Cash Transfers In	\$4,728,300	\$2,207,600	\$1,393,500	\$2,196,300
Cash Transfers Out	\$-4,132,800	\$-1,505,000	\$-702,100	\$-1,431,600
Current Year Revenue	\$57,915,600	\$61,213,100	\$63,622,300	\$63,898,700
Expenditure	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Personnel Costs	\$33,393,600	\$34,213,000	\$35,752,200	\$38,120,300
Operating Expenditures	\$19,963,200	\$19,900,900	\$20,274,100	\$22,295,400
Capital Outlay	\$6,782,600	\$7,709,500	\$8,072,100	\$6,241,300
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$378,100	\$304,300	\$337,900	\$356,400
Total	\$60,517,500	\$62,127,700	\$64,436,300	\$67,013,400



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Provide opportunity to harvest game fish and wildlife (# of hunting, fishing, and combination licenses sold)	523,636	533,067	525,862	539,590
Scientifically assess the abundance and health of big game populations to inform management decisions (# of hours of deer and elk aerial surveys flown)	949	858	1035	924
Provide public access to private lands or through private lands to public lands for hunting, fishing, and trapping (acres provided through Access Yes! program)	NA	348,609	483,277	778,028
Provide public access to important wildlife areas for hunting, fishing, trapping, and viewing (# of acres managed)	376,416	378,507	378,510	367,081
Provide opportunity to hunt big game (# elk and deer hunter days) ^a	1,433,000	1,103,376	1,329,056	NA ^b

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Alleviate wildlife damage to agriculture (<i>minimum # of depredation complaints responded to</i>)	766	369	651	462
Compensate for wildlife damage to agriculture (<i># depredation claims paid</i>)	22	23	24	20
Improve opportunity to harvest game fish (<i># of hatchery-raised resident and anadromous fish stocked in ponds, lakes, and streams</i>) ^a	40,089,558 ^a	38,152,528	41,256,630	42,497,953 ^b
Provide opportunity to harvest salmon and steelhead without harming threatened populations (<i>angler hours spent fishing for salmon and steelhead</i>)	2,013,508	2,019,553	1,720,129	1,493,897
Provide public access to fishing waters (<i># fishing and boating access sites maintained</i>)	321	325	328	325
Scientifically assess the abundance and health of fish populations to inform management decisions (<i># surveys conducted on lakes, reservoirs, rivers, and streams</i>)	300	178	178	132
Enforce fish and game laws (<i># of warnings and citations issued</i>)	4,493	4,785	5,112	4,569
Protect game populations, provide information, ensure human safety (<i># of licenses checked by officers in the field</i>)	73,477	84,856	77,201	83,951
Provide information, analysis, and recommendations to improve fish and wildlife habitats and reduce impacts from land and water use (<i># technical comments, reviews, meetings, site visits, and technical data requests filled</i>)	2,323	2,568	2,218	2,576
Minimize the impacts of fish and wildlife diseases on fish and wildlife populations, livestock, and humans (<i># cases, biological samples, and necropsies handled by health labs</i>) ^c	2,590	2,925	3,170	3,762 ^b
Educate students about hunting and firearms safety, ethics and responsibilities, wildlife management, and fish and game rules and regulations (<i># of students Hunter Education certified</i>)	11,016	13,195	11,962	8,346 ^b
Provide information on fishing and hunting, fish and wildlife, educational programs, volunteer opportunities, and other general agency information to the public (<i># visitors per month to agency website</i>)	91,250	131,474	140,000	150,000

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Train schoolteachers about how to improve their students' awareness, knowledge, skills, and responsible behavior related to Idaho's fish and wildlife. (<i># teachers who attended Project Wild workshops</i>)	335	319	463	368
Provide information to license buyers to increase their recreation satisfaction and opportunities (<i># visitors to Idaho Hunt Planner web page</i>)	NA	NA	NA	18,473 ^d
Provide for community and public involvement in management and education while reducing costs (<i># Volunteer, Reservist, and Hunter Ed Instructor hours</i>) ^c	73,805	70,846	74,259	13,874 ^b

^a- Measure based on a calendar year.

^b- Tally is incomplete for 2005

^c- Measure combines fiscal and calendar years.

^d- Service began in late 2005.

Performance Highlights:

The Department continued Mule Deer Initiative efforts to protect and improve habitat, increase mule deer numbers, manage predators, provide more hunter access, and keep the mule deer hunting public informed.

Improved bighorn sheep populations by transplanting 62 bighorn sheep from the Lost River range and raised \$248,000 to benefit bighorn sheep through the sale of 2 special bighorn sheep tags.

Cooperated with the Office of Species Conservation in efforts to delist the wolf and Yellowstone grizzly bear and return management authority to the state of Idaho.

Radio-collared 981 deer, elk, and moose in Idaho's largest ever project on elk, deer, and moose survival providing information necessary for balancing big game and wolf populations.

Expanded the Access Yes program to over 750,000 acres of private land, thereby providing increased sportsmen access.

Launched the "Hunt Planner" (<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/huntplanner>), an internet-based search engine providing information on hunting and regulations and one-stop shopping for sportsmen wishing information on travel, services, drawing odds, printable maps, hunt boundaries and more.

Promoted safe and responsible use of OHV's through the Idaho Interagency Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinating Committee campaign encouraging OHV users to "use their power responsibly".

Implemented the Regional Investigator program in 6 regions to focus enforcement efforts on habitual wildlife criminals, including those involved in the illegal commercialization of fish and wildlife.

Increased public outreach by sending 359,781 informational emails to 5,016 subscribers using the GovDocs email delivery system. The number of subscribers continues to increase.

Held the first salmon fishery in the Upper Salmon River since the late 1970's.

Re-established the perch fishery in Cascade Reservoir in the Southwest Region.

Established a new trout fishery in the recently constructed Deer Creek Reservoir in the Clearwater Region.

Reinforced the case for delisting bull trout by providing extensive scientific information during the Five Year ESA Status Review of this ESA listed species.

Began a ground breaking nutrient enhancement program in the Kootenai River to help increase game fish, Kootenai River sturgeon, and burbot populations.

Increased by 30% over last year the number of acres of private lands improved for wildlife habitat. Over 6,800 acres of uplands and wetlands were put in conservation program agreements to improve wildlife habitat.

Acquired more than 700 acres of important mule deer and elk winter range within the Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area in the Upper Snake Region.

Collaboratively developed a draft Idaho Sage Grouse Conservation Plan involving the Idaho Cattle Association, Idaho Conservation League, Idaho Department of Agriculture, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Department of Lands, and Office of Species Conservation.

Completed the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, a conservation framework for Idaho species in greatest conservation need. Implementation of the strategy will help preclude ESA listings and facilitate federal funding for species conservation.

Cooperatively implemented the Slickspot Peppergrass Conservation Agreement, helping avoid listing of this species under ESA.

Completed construction of regional Offices in the Salmon, Magic Valley and Clearwater regions; improving customer service, public meeting, and employee space and facilities.

Eliminated the separate Department payroll process and moved to I-Time, reducing Department administrative costs.

Installed Citrix computer application to provide field and traveling employees high speed use of all Department computer systems, applications, and networks with full security.

Provided wireless-enabled computer access in all offices, allowing use of the network and internet without costly office retrofits.

Simplified the Department's activity-based accounting system, reducing the number of transactions by 40%.

For More Information Contact

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